

## STORIES OF THE SEA.

### Quenching a Blaze In a Hurry on Board a War Vessel.

### PRANK OF A TRICKY MASCOT.

There Were Lively Times on Deck When the Big Monkey Got Himself Mixed Up With Hot Pitch and Gun Cotton and Took a Trip Aloft.

We were making passage from Norfolk, Va., to Lisbon, Portugal, in the United States steamship Alliance. It was shortly after 4 o'clock. I had just gone to my room for a pipeful of tobacco when the sailmaker came to my door with a scared face. "Got any water in your room, Mr. Du Bois?" he said.

"Yes; here's a pailful."

"For God's sake give it to me quick! The sail room's afire, but don't say anything! I'll have it out in a minute!"

I handed him the pail of water, but was not going to take any chances of a fire on a man-of-war with fifteen tons of powder not six feet away, so I ran to the ship's bell and rang the fire alarm as furiously as I could. In less time than it takes you to read this hand grenades were being thrown and water was pouring into the now stifling mass of burning canvas. Men jumped in among the great bundles of furling sails and passed them out, and when one could not endure the smoke any longer another took his place. At last the danger was over, and I began to look around and take stock of the affair.

I had often wondered what I would do in case of a fire on the ship. I would save my watch. A watch is never used at sea, so it hung from a hook over my desk. I would be sure to take along my best girl's picture, and there were a few other little belongings which must not be parted with. Well, when the thing was over, what had I gathered together? Not my watch, not my best girl's picture, not anything that I had thought I would, but I had filled my pockets with extract of beef and nothing else. Dumb instinct, not a thought of anything but of something good to eat in dire extremity.

How did the fire start? The sailmaker, whose duty it is to keep the sails in good order, is privileged to go to the sail room at any time, but he is supposed to always carry a peculiar lantern, consisting of a common candle set in a globe of horn, sufficiently opaque to give enough light for his needs there. The candle does away with any danger from oil that might be spilled and catch fire, and the globe, being of horn instead of glass, precludes a possibility of breakage. This time the sailmaker, desiring a little more light, had taken out the candle. It had dropped from his fingers away down into the bight of a furling sail, and the cloth had caught fire. There was a terrible mess of burned and smoky sails in there, and they were all hauled up on deck and spread out in the sun to dry and to find out just what the damage was. In the bottom of the room on the floor one of the men found the stump of candle and put it in his pocket. The sailmaker was a favorite on board, and the officers never found out how the fire started. They thought they knew. The captain "broke" the sailmaker—that is, reduced him to the decks. But he couldn't prove anything. So after a week or so he restored him to his old rank.

We came near having another fire once, and, while it might have been very serious, it was really funny.

We had several hundred pounds of gun cotton on board, and, fearing that it might have gathered dampness, the gunner's gang got up the cases from the magazine, pulled it all out and spread it on the warm decks far aft in the sun to dry. Away forward the boatswain's mate and his gang were busy with tar pots and ropes putting some of their stuff in order.

We had on board a mascot in the shape of a monkey, one of the largest I have ever seen. He would stand quite three feet high, and he was the very Old Nick for mischief. He was a great nuisance, that monkey, and must always be doing what he saw any of the men doing.

Well, Mr. Monkey saw the men with the warm tar, and nothing would do but he must have a hand in the job. Literally, so he ran forward and dipped his hands into the pot and in a minute was all besmeared with the sticky stuff; then he bolted aft as fast as he could scamper and rolled in the gun cotton, got himself well covered with it and ran aloft into the rigging. Sailors have a saying, "The devil to pay and no pitch hot," but the pitch was hot this time, and the condition was actually appalling. Some of the men ran after him, but it was impossible to catch him. He was too shrewd for that. The gunner's gang gathered up that gun cotton as men never did so fast in their lives before and put it back into the cans, for had that fool monkey dropped from aloft into it he would have blown the ship to kingdom come. They got it out of the way without disaster, but for several hours that creature sat up there picking gun cotton from himself and throwing it overboard. As I said, the episode would have been comical had it not been fraught with so much danger. It might have been "another sea mystery," but it was not.—Stanley Du Bois in Los Angeles Times.

He bears misery best who hides it most.—Shakespeare.

## A CROSS ON HIS BACK.

It Was Made With Chalk, but Was Too Heavy to Carry.

There is a story of an envious tailor current with the French peasantry. He fancied that his neighbor, who received a pension for the loss of an arm incurred while fighting for his country, was better off than himself. Both men went to pay their rent on the same day.

"That's a lucky man," said the tailor to the landlord. "He gets well paid for his arm."

"But who would be willing to part with an arm, even if he were paid for it?" said the landlord.

"I would," declared the tailor.

"You?" cried the landlord. "Why, man, you wouldn't be willing to bear anything of the sort, no matter how much you were paid for it."

"I wish some one would try me."

"Now, see here," said the landlord, who had studied human nature. "I'll tell you what—if you'll wear even so much as a chalk mark on your back I'll remit your rent as long as you wear it on your coat so it can be seen, the condition being that you tell no one why it is there."

"Agreed," said the tailor eagerly.

"That's an easy way to pay rent."

So the chalk mark in the form of a cross was made on the back of his coat, and the delighted tailor sallied forth upon the street.

Strangers and acquaintances hailed him to tell him of the mark on his back. Jokes were made at his expense, children laughed and pointed at him, and his wife annoyed him with questions and with conjugal familiarity told him he was a fool. The usually amiable man grew surly and morose; he shunned men, women and children and frequented back streets. Before the week was up the tailor found himself embroiled in a quarrel with his best friend, his wife had threatened to leave his house, and he considered himself miserable and ill used.

Finally one night he took off his coat and rubbed out the chalk mark and said: "There! I would not wear that cross on my back another week, no, not if I could have all the money there is in Paris!"

## ROBIN HOOD NOT A MYTH.

Hero of Sherwood Forest Had a Court Place Under King Edward II.

Many famous men have their names linked with Sherwood—King John, the three Edwards, Richard III., Cardinal Wolsey and Charles I.—but the hero of the place, the "genius loci," is Robin Hood.

Some think that the famous outlaw of the ballads was a myth, a mere poetic conception and a creature of the popular mind, but Mr. Hunter in his research into the person and period of Robin Hood holds that he was born between 1285 and 1295, living through the reign of the second Edward and into the early years of the third. He was of a family of some station seated near Wakefield and supported the Earl of Lancaster in his rebellion against the government. When the earl fell and his followers were proscribed Robin Hood took to the woods and supported himself by slaying the wild animals found in the forest and by levying a species of blackmail on passengers along the great road which united London and Berwick. This continued for about twenty months, from April, 1322, to December, 1323, when he fell into the king's power, who for some unknown reason not only pardoned him, but gave him a place at court. Anyhow, a man of the name of Robyn Hode was a "varlet" of the king in 1324.

Dr. Spencer T. Hall says that Robyn was created Earl of Huntingdon by a London ballad writer hard up for a word to rhyme to Little John. Be this as it may, Robin Hood will always be the hero of romance, and those who love romance will refuse to believe that he never existed.—London Globe.

## Mansfield's Lonely Meals.

There were two meals which Mansfield always ate alone—breakfast and the light repast of broth and oysters late in the afternoon. An empty stomach attacked his nerves and set his temper on edge. In the morning he was in no convenient mood until he had the invariable coffee and bacon. After a somewhat rigid abstinence during the balance of the day and evening the fatigue of a performance edged his nerves till his midnight supper, which, with a troop of friends about him, warmed him into the sunniest humor of the day. A book or play was the companion of his solitary meals.—Paul Wiltach in Scribner's.

## The Very First One.

The visitors in the historical museum gazed curiously at a small feather pillow which nestled in a glass case.

"I don't see anything unusual about that pillow," remarked one of the visitors, turning to the guide.

"It's a very valuable pillow," replied the guide. "That is Washington's original headquarters."—Lippincott's.

## A Zoological Question.

The director of the zoological gardens was on his vacation. He received a note from his chief assistant, which closed thusly: "The chimpanzee seems to be pining for a companion. What shall we do until you return?"—St. Louis Republic.

## Two Words.

"There are two words that I feel sorry for."

"And they are?"

"Blithering and eggregious. Nobody ever uses 'em except to call some one an idiot or an ass."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

## THE OLD SAIL DRILL.

Perils the Modern Warship Men Do Not Have to Face.

One of the dangers and one of the hardest tasks of the man-of-war's man vanished out of his life when, with the supplanting of the frigate by the steam cruiser, the old time sail drill became a thing of the past. Fleets in the old days were continually exercised in making and shortening sail, shifting spars and all similar maneuvers aloft, says Captain J. W. Gambier of the British navy in his "Links In My Life." As the greatest rivalry existed among the crews as to which ship should carry out the evolution first accidents were frequent. Hardly a drill day passed without men being seriously injured.

Once during a drill in Kiel harbor, where the rivalry in the fleet was increased by the eagerness of foreign ships to compete with the English, an unfortunate French midshipman went head first from the mainmast cross-tree of the French flagship to the deck.

That numbers of accidents should take place in sail drill was not astonishing when one remembers that spars measuring perhaps seventy or eighty feet long and weighing two or three tons were whisked about with bewildering speed with nothing but men's hands and brains to guide them; hundreds of men crammed into a space of a few hundred square feet, where nothing but the most marvelous organization and discipline could avert death on deck or aloft.

To the landsman, who understood nothing of the difficulty involved in rapidly shifting these great masts and yards or in reefing and furling thousands of square feet of stiff canvas—perhaps wet or half frozen—the rapidity with which it was done was perhaps the chief wonder.

Ropes, running like lightning through blocks that were instantly too hot for friction to be touched, had to be checked to within a few inches, requiring the utmost coolness and presence of mind, while the officer in command had to superintend what to the uninitiated looked like a tangled mass of cordage, but which was in reality no more in confusion than the threads in a loom.

In an instant this officer might see something going wrong. To delay a single second meant a terrible catastrophe. Every one, aloft and aloft, was relying on his judgment.

"Belay! Ease away!"

The order came in an instant. The boatswain's mates repeated it in a particular call which this life and death necessity soon taught every one to understand, the shrill whistles rising above the din of tramping feet and running ropes or the thunderous crash of the great sails in the wind. Death had been averted—or not. If not you looked up and saw some unfortunate man turning head over heels in the air. Your heart stood still. Would the catch hold of something, even if only to break his fall, or would he come battering on the deck? It was a mere toss up. If he was killed outright it generally stopped the drill for the day; if he was only seriously injured the drill went on, for this was part of the lesson that must be learned—that in peace, as in war, one must take his chances.

## A Short Verse.

An Englishman named Thomas Thorp died, leaving his fortune to a poor relative on condition that a headstone, with the name of the said Thomas Thorp and a verse of poetry, be erected over the grave. Costing so much a word to chisel letters on the stone, the poor relative ordered that the poetry should be brief. Upon his refusal to approve, on account of their length, the lines

Here lies the corp  
Of Thomas Thorp  
the following was finally ordered and accepted:

Thorp's  
Corpse.

## The Gingerbread Tree.

There is a species of palm, growing to a height of from twenty-five to thirty feet, in Egypt, Arabia, Abyssinia and Nubia which produces its fruit in long clusters, each containing from 100 to 200. These fruits are of an irregular form, of a rich yellowish brown color and are beautifully polished. In upper Egypt they form part of the food of the poorer classes of inhabitants, the part eaten being the fibrous, mealy husk, which tastes almost exactly like gingerbread, whence the popular name of gingerbread tree in Egypt. Hyphoea thebaica is the botanical name of this palm.

## How It Struck Him.

It was 5 o'clock in the afternoon, in a crowded Brooklyn trolley car, and above the noise arose the walls of a leather lunged baby protesting against everything. After two miles of this din the mother left with her child, when a young man in the front end of the car thus expressed his sentiments:

Gee whis! I'm glad I'm free!  
No wedding bells for me.  
The result can be more easily imagined than described.—New York Post.

## Women and Ships.

"But, Mr. Mainbrace, why do they always call a ship 'she'?"

"Lor', miss, you wouldn't ask that if you'd ever tried to steer one."—Kansas City Independent.

## On the Safe Side.

"In the matter of drinking," mused the philosopher with the impressionistic nose, "be sure you are right and you won't get a head."—Philadelphia Record.

The man to whom you owe money never rests.—Aitchison Globe.

## City Council Proceedings.

Columbus, Miss., Jan. 8, 1909.

At a regular adjourned meeting of the council held this date there were present E. S. Donnell, mayor, and Council Weaver, Snell, Vaughan, McClanahan, Moore and Steen.

The minutes of the January 4th meeting were read and approved.

Maj. Battle Bell was before the council in the matter of having the drain ditch that runs along the northern boundary of the Bell Lumber Company's plant, properly tiled, and said that if the city would have the work done his company would pay half of the cost, and was assured the matter would be given due consideration.

The following opinion of the city attorney relative to the right of the city to levy and collect a privilege tax from persons soliciting laundry in this city and sending same to another city to be done up, was read and ordered spread on the minutes:

"Columbus, Miss., Jan. 8, 1909.  
"To the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus:

"Gentlemen:—Answering the several questions submitted to me for official opinion, I make reply as follows—to the:

"1st. Has the city council the legal authority to impose a tax upon the privilege of carrying on, engaging in or practicing any trade, business, profession, occupation or calling in this city, which the State does not tax? In other words, can the council legally tax and license any trade, business, profession, etc., which is not taxed and licensed by law as embraced in the code, chapter 114, on 'Privilege Taxes,' or the laws mandatory thereof?"

"I answer the above question unhesitatingly in the affirmative, and for my authority I cite subdivision nine (9) of section 24 of the city charter, the first sentence of which contains the authority. It reads: 'To levy and collect taxes on all privileges taxable by the laws of this State, and upon the privilege of carrying on, engaging in or practicing any other trade, business, profession, occupation or calling in said city, and to license, tax and regulate every profession, trade, occupation, business, calling or means of living which may be practiced, engaged in or followed by any person or persons in said city.' The only limitation prescribed is: 'That the tax imposed upon privileges which are taxed by the laws of this State shall not exceed fifty per cent. of the State tax on the same privilege.'

"To the—  
"2nd. Has the council the legal authority under the charter of the city above cited to impose a privilege tax on agents for laundries located outside of the State? In other words, would such tax be in conflict with and in violation of the commercial clause of the federal constitution?"

"My answer is, that the Council has such right and that its exercise would not be in contravention of the interstate commerce clause of the federal constitution. In support of this opinion I rely on and cite section 257 et seq. of the recently issued work, entitled 'McQuillin Municipal Ordinances.' It holds, and gives the reason why, agents doing business in a State for laundries located in another State may be taxed, viz., 'The making of such contracts is held to be a mere incident of the business transacted, and not commerce in and of itself.' And it cites as authority for such Smith vs. Jackson, 193 Tenn. 47, L. R. A. 416. The facts of this last case are 'on all fours' with those presented by your questions, and it holds that 'an agent of a laundry in one State who collects garments and sends them out of the State to be washed and laundered, and afterward redelivers them to their owners, is not engaged in commerce so as to be protected against the privilege tax imposed on his occupation.'

"Beard, J., in delivering the opinion of the court in Smith vs. Jackson, supra, cites Paul vs. Virginia, 8 Wall 168, and says: 'Said laundry contracts, like those made by resident agents representing insurance companies located in another State, are simply personal contracts, based on a valuable consideration having no element of a commercial transaction falling within the protection of the commerce clause of the federal constitution.' The case, says Beard, J., is clearly distinguished from that of State vs. Scott, 98 Tenn 254, 36 L. R. A. 461. There the enlarged pictures, made by and the property of the Chicago artist, sent into this State (Tennessee) to be paid for by one of its citizens, was a valuable article, and the transaction between the parties by which the ownership was changed, was one of interstate commerce.

"In view of the foregoing cited authorities I have proceeded to and have prepared the accompanying draft of an ordinance for adoption by the council. Respectfully submitted,

"E. T. Sykes, City Attorney."

The following ordinance offered by Councilman Steen and seconded by

Councilman Weaver was unanimously adopted:

## "An Ordinance.

"Be it ordained by the mayor and city council of the city of Columbus, That a privilege tax of twelve dollars and fifty cents is hereby created and levied upon all agents of laundries in other States engaged in the business of collecting garments in this city and sending them out of this State to be washed and 'laundered' and afterward redelivered to their owners in this city.

"2nd. Be it further ordained, That the provisions of ordinances 198-204 of chapter XXI of the printed charter and ordinances of this city shall apply to and are hereby made a part of this ordinance.

"3rd. Be it further ordained, That this ordinance take effect and be in force ten days after its adoption.

"Adopted this 8th day of January, 1909."

On motion the judgment and cost in the case of Mrs. Lilly Myers vs. the City of Columbus, Miss., was allowed and ordered paid, subject to check.

On motion, the treasurer was ordered to refund L. Rosenweig & Bro. the sum of \$10.00, same being excess privilege tax paid by said firm for a peddler.

On motion, it was ordered that all churches using the city water in operating their organs be furnished such water free.

Weaver by Steen: That the matter of tiling the drain ditch on the north side of the property of the Bell Lumber Company be referred to the street committee for investigation, to ascertain the cost and report at the next regular meeting. So ordered.

A letter from the Chattanooga Boiler & Tank Co. in regard to a stand pipe was read and ordered filed.

An estimate for repairs of the Luxapilla fire engine by the American LaFrance Fire Engine Co. was read, ordered filed, and the matter referred to the fire committee for investigation.

The following accounts were then allowed and ordered paid:

Fire Department—Littleton & Co., plug and repairs bridge snap, \$1.00; Kilpatrick & Snell, oats and bran, \$17.65; H. Roberts & Co., two dusters, \$1.00; Weaver & Harrington, oil, 85c; Miss. Vet. Hospital, attention bay horse, \$4.00; Banks Hardware Co., harness oil and sash cord, \$1.30; J. H. Stevens & Son, two brooms, \$1.00.

Water Works—Banks Hardware Co., 13 pounds nails, 52c; National Meter Co., meter parts, \$45.75; H. C. Starbuck, ref'd water rent, \$2.65; Jacobs, F. M., pipe, Ts' etc., \$7.00; Jacobs, F. M., sundry fittings, \$8.50; Ahrens & Ott Mfg. Co., copper ball and stem, 47c; Ahrens & Ott Mfg. Co., furnace pot and ladle, \$4.25; Columbus Hdw. & Fur. Co., three handles, 45c; Corono Coal & Iron Co., December account, subject to check; Rogers & Boyne, meter boxes, \$4.00; Weaver & Harrington, glass cutter and castor oil, 50c.

Incidentals—Holmes of Mississippi, blank privilege licenses, \$27.50; Vandiver, M. C., stamps, express, etc., \$6.40; Robertson & Co., brooms, 40c; Guyton Printing Co., 1000 circulars (fire works), \$2.50; Loeb Variety Store, mop, 25c; Kilpatrick & Snell, bran and oats for police, \$7.90; Winston-Harris Hdw. Co., 7 joints, pipe and lock, \$1.30; Childers, E. H., repairs roof of city hall, \$4.50; Divilbiss, L. B., dater and ink pad, 50c; Columbus Dispatch, 1000 letter heads for marshal, \$4.00; Columbus Hdw. & Fur. Co., drawer pulls, 15c; Weaver & Harrington, ink, carbon and type paper, \$5.30; Weaver & Harrington, disinfectants, \$1.75; Columbus Dispatch, notice of election and tickets, \$11.89; Littleton & Co., repairs mail box, 25c; Columbus Commercial, notice election, \$5.07.

Streets—Stevens & Son, oil, 75c; Franklin & Co., salt, \$1.00; Columbus Hdw. & Fur. Co., 4 collar pads, \$1.40; Weaver & Harrington, stock powder and liniment, \$2.00; Jacobs, C. H., repairs carts and tools, \$13.25; Winn, P. L., shoeing mule, \$1.00; Winston-Harris Hdw. Co., two pairs saw handles, 50c; Columbus Carriage Works, shoeing, \$2.00; Jacob, F. M., repairs road machine, \$10.00; Walker, J. L. & Co., corn, oats, \$18.85; Cheatham, R. E., lumber, \$7.79; Bell Lumber Co., tiling, \$26.24.

Schools—Long, Mrs. H., insurance premium, \$26.00; Robertson & Co., brooms Union Academy, \$1.75; Columbus Hdw. & Fur. Co., two desks B. M. School, \$23.00; Foote-Davis & Co., pay certificate book, \$11.10; Columbus Hdw. & Fur. Co., step ladder and rake, \$3.00; Cumberland Telephone Co., two phones, \$4.00; Kilpatrick & Snell, four brooms for Franklin Academy, \$1.60.

Lights—Hunt, D. A., installing meters, \$27.16; Columbus Ry. L. & P. Co., general account, \$63.97; fire department, \$22.14; stables, \$3.34; city hall, \$35.34.

The account of E. C. Campbell, laying cement sidewalks, amounting to \$1,402.84, was allowed, subject to check of the mayor and street com-

mittee, subject to the following deductions: Order given Robertson & Co., \$500; previous payment, \$200.

It was ordered by the council that the matter of interest charged the city by the local banks be referred to the finance committee.

On motion the council adjourned. Attest: I. H. Sykes, Sec.

## A FABLE OF NIGERIA.

The Crafty Spider and the Way He Paid His Debts.

The following fable of the spider is one of the folk tales of northern Nigeria:

A spider, it seems, had occasion to borrow a sum of money. A journey round to the generously disposed brought him 2,000 cowries each from the cat, the dog, the hyena, the leopard and the lion. When pay day came round, the spider remained at home to receive the visits of his creditors in a certain prearranged order. First came the cat to claim repayment of his loan.

"Hash!" said the spider. "I hear a noise outside. It is a dog come to see me. You must hide under this calabash for safety." The cat was scarcely hidden when the dog, coming in, made a similar request for his money. Says Master Spider, "There is a cat under that calabash. Take him and consider the debt paid." No sooner said than done. Just then a snuffling and scraping were heard at the door. The third creditor, the hyena, had arrived. "Don't be alarmed, my dear dog, but hide here till he has left." And the spider bustled him under the calabash. "I smell a dog," said the hyena, routing about. "Under that calabash," the spider replied. "Eat him up, and your debt is paid." The dog paid the penalty of his simplicity, and all was quiet once more. The hyena was preparing to leave, when he heard an ominous sound that sent him crouching against the wall. It was the pattering of the leopard's feet at the door. "Quick! Under this calabash!" cries his host, and the hyena curls up in the fatal cache, only to meet a like fate from his more courageous enemy.

"My debt is repaid," said the leopard, and ran against the lion coming in. A terrible fight ensued, for the leopard and the lion are equal in strength, so the natives say. When blood and dust make havoc in the house and both animals are exhausting their strength the spider is busy at the fire. Seizing a pot of boiling grease, he pours it over the clawing mass. Leopard and lion roll apart in their death agony, and the spider has only to straighten and clean up before resuming once more the humdrum life of fly catching. No wonder he is known as "Malwayo," the crafty one.

## King Cotton Grower.

Eupora, Miss., Oct. 8, 1908.

Tennessee Fertilizer Company,

Florence, Ala.:

Gentlemen:—I have used your King Cotton Grower along with other high-grade fertilizers this year, and have no hesitancy in saying that it has given me entire satisfaction. It is a high-grade goods in every respect, besides being put up in bags made out of our cotton.

I think our people ought to patronize those who not only give us good, honest goods, but are trying to create a greater demand for our cotton.

Yours truly, H. G. Cooper.

Miss Ruby Bell was taken sick the past week with scarlatina, and is quite ill at her home on College street. Her many friends hope that she will soon be convalescent.

Mr. Walter Prowell left last Monday for a short visit to Mr. Standard Eguen at Dunleith, Stone and Foote's plantation.

Mrs. R. C. McClanahan has returned from a pleasant four weeks' visit to her father and other relatives in Birmingham.

Mr. M. A. Dodson of Caledonia was in the city last Thursday and paid The Dispatch a pleasant visit.

Mr. S. C. Johnson of McCrary was in the city the past week on a business visit.

Dollars stretched to almost twice their strength at Kaufman's sale.

## Give-Away Prices!

Mammoth Rockers.  
Reed Rockers.  
Dining Chairs.  
Mahogany Sets at your price.

Oak Suits from \$15 to \$20.  
COME AND SEE.  
See our Sideboards, Hall Racks and Wardrobes, and be convinced of good prices.  
Davenport, Sofas, Settees and Hall Suits.

COME AND ASK  
**Gunter Bros.**  
Funeral and Undertaker's Supplies.